

ABSTRACT

It is an object of the present invention to provide a
5 thermally expandable microcapsule, which can be thermally
expanded at low temperatures and in which an expanded
microcapsule is resistant to shrink at high temperatures.

The present invention pertains to a thermally
expandable microcapsule, which contains a shell polymer and
10 a volatile expanding agent becoming gaseous at a
temperature not higher than a softening point of said shell
polymer, in which said shell polymer contains a nitrile
monomer component in an amount 70% by weight or more and a
content of an acrylonitrile component in said nitrile
15 monomer component is 40 to 85% by weight, and the volatile
expanding agent contains a volatile expanding agent having
a branched-chain structure or a cyclic structure in an
amount 30% by weight or more.